

BECON



BALTIMORE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION NETWORK A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP



SYSTEM OVERVIEW AND REGISTRATION FOR DISABILITY SERVICES PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS MARCH 2009

➤ **Purpose**

The Baltimore Emergency Communication Network (BECON) provides a fast, robust, and effective mechanism for public-private sector communication in a major emergency. The system allows government and businesses to efficiently exchange critical information and coordinate response and recovery activities to better serve the citizens of Baltimore.

➤ **Participants**

BECON was initially developed by the City of Baltimore, the Downtown Partnership Safety Coalition, and various Baltimore businesses. It is administered by the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (MOEM). BECON is now being expanded to additional business sectors. Registration is open to businesses in those sectors that have been established within BECON and have a designated Sector Coordinator to solicit and maintain participants' contact information.

➤ **System Features**

BECON participants submit contact information, which is then stored in an automated messaging system called AlertFind. Contact information must be provided using a standard template. In a major emergency, the City can activate AlertFind to rapidly notify participants via multiple communication devices.

The City will send out an alert to notify members of emergency conditions, provide instructions on protective actions, solicit information about facility status, request assistance, or arrange for additional coordination by conference call or other means. BECON tests are held at least twice per year.

➤ **How to Register**

As of March 2009, BECON registration is open to public, private, and non-profit organizations that provide disability services within the City of Baltimore. Each organization may designate up to two contacts using the provided template.

For more information or to join BECON contact the Disability Services Providers Sector Coordinator:

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